Cut in Central Plan assistance to states

1681. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central plan assistance to the States would be cut to recover their dues pertaining to Central undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals in this regard; and

(c) the particulars of cash and carry formula proposed to be introduced with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cases referred to BIFR

1682. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to the Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction since its inception;

(b) the number of cases in which the Board has recommended revival of the units under certain stipulations;

(c) the number of cases where units have been re-opened pursuant to the Board's recommendations; and

(d) the number of cases where the units which could not be opened because of Government's refusal to abide by the BIFR's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that since its inception, 2716 references from sick industrial companies were received by BIFR upto 31.1.1997. Out of these, 1866 references were registered under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

(b) 593 rehabilitation schemes for revival of sick industrial companies had been approved/sanctioned by the BIFR upto 31.1.1997.

(c) BIFR has reported that upto 31.1.1997. 162 cases were declared no longer sick and are out of purview of BIFR. The remaining sanctioned schemes are at various stages of implementation.

(d) BIFR has reported that there is no case in its knowledge in which a scheme sanctioned by BIFR has not been implemented due to refusal of Government to do so.

Resolution for wage freeze in United Commercial Bank

1683. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govrnment's attention has been drawn to the resolution recently passed by the Board of Directors of the United Commercial Bank recommending an indefinite wage freeze for its employees;

(b) the reasons adduced for adopting this resolution; and

(c) whether Government intend to intervene in the matter for the sake of maintaining healthy industrial relations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) It has been reported by UCO Bank that its Board of Directors in a meeting held on 14th December, 1996 while considering the Bank's balance sheet as on 30.9.96 gave various directions for dealing with weak financial position of the bank for bringing out a strategic revival plan which inter-alia, included wage freeze. UCO Bank has further reported that this decision with regard to wage freeze stands withdrawn after deliberations in another meeting of Board of Directors held on 19th February, 1997.